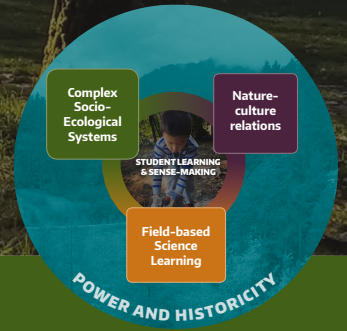


Family Science Learning Engagement



LE 3.B Taking a Focused Observation Walk Together: Relationships

Activity Purpose

Use this activity to look for signs of relationships in your neighborhood while you walk. Learning to notice relationships in the social and natural world is important for thinking about socio-ecological systems. Focusing on relationships among different members and parts of a system helps us understand the many ways in which everything is connected. You might notice relationships between humans and plants directly or indirectly between things humans have built. For example, plants growing in the cracks of sidewalks or in yards. Or you might notice relationships between animals, like a dog chasing a squirrel. You can also look for relationships between the land and water.

Activity Overview

- Use the activity sheet to guide your thinking while you walk. You can draw the template on a piece of paper or try using a journal to collect your observations over time.
- Look for signs of relationships and draw or write anything interesting that you see.
- If any new questions come up, write them down and come back to them later.
- **Extension ideas:** Look at your notes from previous walks, do you see some relationships you might have noticed previously?



What can
you do to
support
learning?

- » Talk about relationships in your own family, and don't forget to mention neighbors, teachers, pets, plants, etc. Ask children what they think is important about those relationships. While you walk, look for examples of relationships in the neighborhood. Who is in a relationship with whom? What does it remind you of?
- » Pay attention to what captures your family's interest. Look above, below and around to discover what might be in relation. What kinds of relationships are you noticing? Who or what benefits from these relationships?
- » Can you find a relationship that is not directly connected, but still part of the bigger system?

Connecting with other families

- » Think about the relationships that you have with other families. How are those similar or different than what you notice on your walks? Write a letter or email a friend and share your ideas, ask them what they have been observing.

Science Practices Emphasized

- Asking Questions
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

CONNECT TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

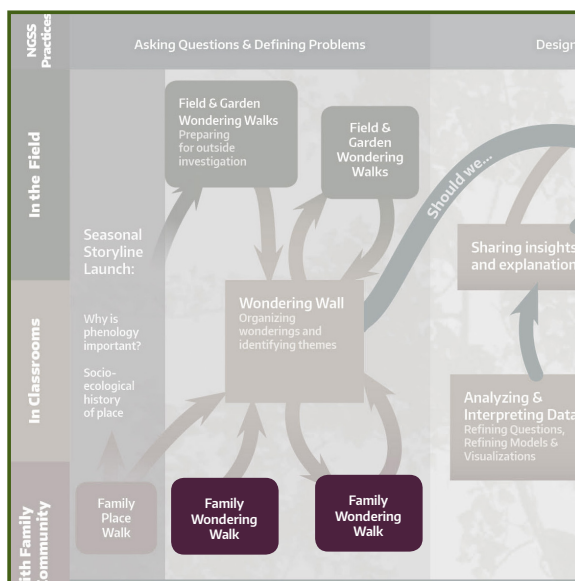
Learning Engagement 3: Taking a focused walk together

- 3.A: Species, Kinds, and Behaviors
- 3.C: Places, Lands and Waters
- 3.D: Human Decision Making
- 3.E: Thinking across scales

LEARNING IN PLACES FRAMEWORKS TO CONSIDER

- Complex Socio-ecological Systems Reasoning
- Relationships
- Observation and Data Collection

YOUR PLACE IN THE SEASONAL STORYLINE



Key Ideas & Practices

Relationships

Relationships are the ways in which beings interact with each other. For example, how does the behavior of water change with the weather? Which plants do you typically see caterpillar munching on? What plants do people step on and which ones do they protect?



Complex Socio-ecological Systems

Socio-ecological systems refer to the interactions between human systems and ecological systems. The underlying premise is that humans are part of the natural world, and all of our systems (e.g. social, political, institutional) are always in relationship with ecological systems. Complex socio-ecological systems are characterized by several spatial, temporal, and organizational scales, and students must be supported in sense-making at different levels of scale.

Disciplinary Core Ideas & Important Phenomena

ESS3.A: Natural Resources: Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do.

ESS3.B: Natural Hazards: Some kinds of severe weather are more likely than others in a given region. Weather scientists forecast severe weather so that the communities can prepare for and respond to these events.

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System Seasonal patterns of sunrise and sunset can be observed, described, and predicted.